



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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October 27, 1999

Mr. John H. Hankinson, Jr.  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, SW, FFB  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3415

Dear Mr. Hankinson:

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EPA SITE OFFICE IN OAK RIDGE ESTABLISHMENT OF EPA SITE OFFICE IN OAK RIDGE**

The leadership of ten of the Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) recently met for the semiannual SSAB Chairs' Meeting at the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Hanford, Washington, site. Doug Sherwood, Hanford Site Manager for EPA Region 10, participated in the site tour that was provided at the meeting and was a major factor in the success of that event. We concluded that Mr. Sherwood's knowledge of the site, the obvious excellent professional working relationship he and his staff have established with the state regulators, DOE, and their on-site contractors, and the fact that they are co-located at the site must all be contributing factors to the significant cleanup progress we observed at Hanford.

Subsequent discussions with Hanford Advisory Board members confirmed that the strong working relationships that exist among the stakeholders, DOE, EPA, and the State of Washington have contributed significantly to their cleanup successes. While each party had well defined roles and responsibilities, it was still possible for them to work in a collegial manner in resolving the complex technical and regulatory cleanup issues at Hanford.

We encourage you to adopt the successful Hanford regulatory model at Oak Ridge, with the objective of accelerating cleanup while maintaining proper regulatory oversight. We believe a constructive step in this direction would be the establishment of a small EPA site office with permanently assigned personnel at Oak Ridge.

DOE and EPA Region 4 have discussed this topic off and on for several years without resolution. While we understand EPA's concerns regarding the establishment of a local site office, we believe they can be resolved. Further, the full-time presence of such EPA representatives, in our opinion, would greatly advance the common goal of safe, efficient, and cost-effective cleanup of the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation.

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It is our understanding that the establishment of an EPA site office at Hanford grew out of discussions among EPA, DOE, the State, and local stakeholder groups. We encourage you to discuss with Region 10 the details of their involvement on the Hanford reservation. We also request representatives of EPA Region 4, DOE, the State of Tennessee, and the Oak Ridge SSAB enter into exploratory discussions on the matter at the earliest possible time. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven H. Kopp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" being more prominent and the last name "Kopp" following in a similar style.

Steven H. Kopp, Chair

cc: Carol Browner, EPA HQ  
Jon Johnston, EPA Region 4  
Camilla Bond Warren, EPA Region 4  
Doug Sherwood, EPA Region 10, Hanford  
Marilyn Reeves, Hanford Advisory Board  
Martha Crosland, DOE/HQ  
Rod Nelson, DOE/ORO  
Carolyn Davis, DOE/ORO  
Dave Adler, DOE/ORO  
John Owsley, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
Susan Gawarecki, Local Oversight Committee